This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): A process for preparing a polyisocyanate containing acylurea groups which comprises reacting an isocyanate corresponding to formula (I)

$$R\text{-}(NCO)_n \qquad (I),$$

wherein

R represents an n-valent linear or branched aliphatic group or cycloaliphatic group having 4 to 30 carbon atoms or an aromatic group having 6 to 24 carbon atoms and

n is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

with an aliphatic, cyclic and/or aromatic carboxylic acid in the presence of a metal-salt catalyst selected from the group consisting of salts of group IIA elements, salts of group IIB elements and salts of lanthanides, at a temperature of 20 to 220°C.

Claim 2. Cancelled.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented): The process of Claim 1 wherein the isocyanate comprises hexane diisocyanate, 3,5,5-trimethyl-1-isocyanato-3-isocyanatomethyl-cyclohexane, 3-isocyanatomethyl-1,8-diisocyanatooctane, and/or 4,4'-methylenebis(cyclohexylisocyanate).

Claim 4. (Previously Presented): The process of Claim 1 wherein the isocyanate comprises toluene diisocyanate, diphenylmethane diisocyanate or 1,5-diisocyanatonaphthalene.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended): The process of Claim 1 wherein the carboxylic acid comprises acetic acid, hexanoic acid, adipic acid, azelaic acid,

cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, cyclohexane carboxylic acid, perhydronaphthalene carboxylic acid, succinic acid, eicosaneodioic acid, aromatic mono- or dicarboxylic acids, dodecanedioic acid and mixtures thereof.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended): The process of Claim 3 wherein the carboxylic acid comprises acetic acid, hexanoic acid, adipic acid, azelaic acid, cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, cyclohexane carboxylic acid, perhydronaphthalene carboxylic acid, succinic acid, eicosaneodioic acid, aromatic mono- or dicarboxylic acids, dodecanedioic acid and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended): The process of Claim 4 wherein the carboxylic acid comprises acetic acid, hexanoic acid, adipic acid, azelaic acid, cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, cyclohexane carboxylic acid, perhydronaphthalene carboxylic acid, succinic acid, eicosaneodioic acid, aromatic mono- or dicarboxylic acids ~~and/or~~ dodecanedioic acid and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8. (Original): The process of Claim 1 wherein an aromatic carboxylic acid is used and comprises phthalic acid.

Claim 9. (Original): The process of Claim 3 wherein an aromatic carboxylic acid is used and comprises phthalic acid.

Claim 10. (Original): The process of Claim 4 wherein an aromatic carboxylic acid is used and comprises phthalic acid.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended): A polyisocyanate containing acylurea groups which is prepared by reacting an isocyanate corresponding to formula (I)

$$R\text{-}(NCO)_n \qquad (I),$$

wherein

R represents an n-valent linear or branched aliphatic group or

cycloaliphatic group having 4 to 30 carbon atoms or an aromatic group having 6 to 24 carbon atoms and

n is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

with an aliphatic, cyclic and/or aromatic carboxylic acid in the presence of a metal-salt catalyst selected from the group consisting of salts of group IIA elements, salts of group IIB elements and salts of lanthanides, at a temperature of 20 to 220°C.

Claim 12. Cancelled.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented): The polyisocyanate of Claim 11 wherein the isocyanate comprises hexane diisocyanate, 3,5,5-trimethyl-1-isocyanato-3-isocyanatomethylcyclohexane, 3-isocyanatomethyl-1,8-diisocyanatooctane, and/or 4,4'-methylenebis(cyclohexylisocyanate).

Claim 14. (Previously Presented): The polyisocyanate of Claim 11 wherein the isocyanate comprises toluene diisocyanate, diphenylmethane disocyanate or 1,5-diisocyanatonaphthalene.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended): The polyisocyanate of Claim 11 wherein the carboxylic acid comprises acetic acid, hexanoic acid, adipic acid, azelaic acid, cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, cyclohexane carboxylic acid, perhydronaphthalene carboxylic acid, succinic acid, eicosaneodioic acid, aromatic mono- or dicarboxylic acids, ~~and/or~~ dodecanedioic acid and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended): The polyisocyanate of Claim 13 wherein the carboxylic acid comprises acetic acid, hexanoic acid, adipic acid, azelaic acid, cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, cyclohexane carboxylic acid, perhydronaphthalene carboxylic acid, succinic acid, eicosaneodioic acid, aromatic mono- or dicarboxylic acids, ~~and/or~~ dodecanedioic acid and mixtures thereof.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended): The polyisocyanate of Claim 14 wherein the carboxylic acid comprises acetic acid, hexanoic acid, adipic acid, azelaic acid, cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, cyclohexane carboxylic acid, perhydronaphthalene carboxylic acid, succinic acid, eicosaneodioic acid, aromatic mono- or dicarboxylic acids, ~~and/or~~ dodecanedioic acid and mixtures thereof.

Claim 18. (Original): The polyisocyanate of Claim 11 wherein an aromatic carboxylic acid is used and comprises phthalic acid.

Claim 19. (Original): The polyisocyanate of Claim 13 wherein an aromatic carboxylic acid is used and comprises phthalic acid.

Claim 20. (Original): The polyisocyanate of Claim 14 wherein an aromatic carboxylic acid is used and comprises phthalic acid.

Claim 21. (Original): A polyurethane coating composition containing a binder comprising the polyisocyanate of Claim 11.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented): The process of Claim 1, wherein the color value of the polyisocyanate is <120 [APHA].

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The poly isocyanate of Claim 11, wherein the color value of the poly isocyanate is <120 [APHA].